

Abstract of the Disclosure

A switch is provided for use in a communications system for
5 transmitting traffic from a first user to a second user. The first and the
second users are interconnected by a primary communications path and a
redundant communications path. The switch includes a first port configured
to receive hello communications indicative of a proper operation of the
primary communications path and a second port for receiving data
communications. A switch control monitors the receipt of the hello
communications, directs the forwarding of received data communications up
to a threshold capacity and , if the received data communications exceed the
threshold capacity, drops at least a portion of the received data
communications such that forwarded data communications are below the
threshold capacity.